

We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. These Kansas seniors joined over 1200 students from across the United States to compete in Washington, DC. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy. I commend each of these students for their hard work and success.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Sue Boldra, for helping prepare these young students. Ms. Boldra's commitment and dedication to nurture and encourage our youth shines through the accomplishments of her students. The First Congressional district has been proud to be represented by Hays High for the past four years on the national level in this prestigious competition. I commend Ms. Boldra for her excellent job promoting education and patriotism among the youth of Kansas.

I also applaud Professor Richard Heil at Fort Hays State University for his three years of service as a judge at the We the People national finals. Dr. Heil's commitment to this program has helped students from across the United States take a strong interest in the principles that govern our nation.

It is an honor to recognize such a meritorious group.

#### HONORING ELMA MANKIN, HERNDON ROTARY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

#### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a friend of Northern Virginia, Ms. Elma Mankin, who is being recognized by the Herndon Rotary Club as Citizen of the Year at a ceremony on April 25, 2001 in Herndon, Virginia.

Ms. Mankin has dedicated herself to making our community a better place. As an active philanthropist, she spends countless hours volunteering in Herndon's many historical sites. She is involved with the Herndon Historical Society, the Herndon Women's Club, Reston Hospital, Herndon United Methodist Church, the Council for the Arts in Herndon, and other local organizations.

A lifelong member of Herndon, Ms. Mankin has seen it grow from a one-stop-light town to the booming technological corridor it is today. She began her career as a secretary at Herndon High School and eventually moved to the Herndon Elementary School. She retired when she gave birth to her two daughters. After the last of her children grew up, she looked for ways to remain active in the community.

She went to Northern Virginia Community College to receive her associate's degree in fine arts. Her works became well-known, but she decided to keep art as a hobby. Ms. Mankin continues to enjoy art, but her real joy is her love of volunteering. She became involved in over ten organizations after finishing her degree.

Ms. Mankin continues her volunteer efforts, visiting Reston Hospital once a week to assist in the rehabilitation center. She also partici-

pates in a social group for local women called "Lunch and Fun Bunch." She serves as a trustee on the Herndon School Board, a lifetime member of the Historical Society, and has served as a town election official for 22 years. Her countless hours of service make our district proud to have such a fine citizen.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish the very best to Ms. Elma Mankin as she is recognized as the Citizen of the Year. She certainly has earned this recognition, and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding this remarkable achievement.

#### HONORING PAUL BESSELIEVRE

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor Paul Besselievre, the recently retired C.E.O./Owner of Valley Trane, who was recently featured in an Executive Profile for the Fresno Business Journal newspaper. The question and answer Executive Profile, printed in the Fresno Business Journal on February 26, 2001, reads as follows:

Q. What is the best thing about your job?

A. Dealing with professionals within the company and the community.

Q. What is the worst thing about your job?

A. Those 7 a.m. meetings.

Q. What is your best professional accomplishment?

A. Training many young engineers and other professionals to be successful in the industry, and hopefully, in life.

Q. If you could effect any change in the business community, what would it be?

A. To get back to doing business with a handshake, where a man's word is his bond, and lawyers are used mostly to write your will.

Q. What is your best personal accomplishment?

A. My wife of 39 years is still my sweetheart. Every Friday is date night. And we still make out.

Q. What is a good yardstick of success?

A. Good friends and a family that loves you.

Q. Best decision?

A. I asked Carol Poljansek to marry me.

Q. Worst decision?

A. To skate across Bear Butte Lake before the ice was thick enough. This should stimulate thought.

Q. What is the community service project or event closest to your heart?

A. I belong to too many organizations to pick one. Each has a special place in my heart, or I wouldn't be a part of it. I couldn't pick a favorite child. Any organization or project that improves the livability of my community is close to my heart.

Q. Best advice you've ever received?

A. One night in 1965 while working late, Earl Nightengale came on the radio and asked a simple question. What do you say when someone asks, "Will you do me a favor?" Most people ask what it is. He encouraged them to just say "sure." It's an attitude. Expect the best of people. If they ask for something unreasonable, you can always recant. What you learn when you expect the best of people is that you usually get it. This change in attitude becomes a way of life. That 10-minute broadcast had a profound impact on me. Life as an optimist is a lot more enjoyable.

Q. Favorite book?

A. The Children's Stories of the Bible. My parents read it to my sister and me, and Carol and I read it to our children.

Q. Favorite recreational activities?

A. Camping, skiing, fishing, cooking. Any activity outdoors, especially in the mountains.

Q. Where did you spend your most recent vacation?

A. A trip to Kansas City to spend Thanksgiving with my children, grandchildren, mother, sister, niece, nephew, and friends who are also family.

Q. What type of car do you drive?

A. A 1983 Buick Riviera convertible.

Q. What is your favorite restaurant?

A. Every ethnic restaurant. We will never run out of favorites. This area is rich with them. Indian, Thai, Chinese, Japanese, Basque, Italian, Mexican, Cajun, Vietnamese, Armenian, etc.

Q. What was your first job?

A. Emptying wastebaskets in an office building after school in Lemmon, South Dakota when I was 10 years old. Moved on to a lawn mowing and snow shoveling business when I was 12.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend Paul Besselievre for his years of dedicated and distinguished service to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Besselievre a pleasant retirement and many more years of continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained in Hawaii on official business during which two rollcall votes were taken. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 85, Motion to Instruct Conferees on the FY 2002 Budget Resolution, "Yes".

Rollcall No. 86, Motion to Suspend the Rules on HR 428 concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization, "Yes".

#### COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

#### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 86th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, in hopes that we will work to ensure that our country's foreign policy reflects a respect for human rights, and renounces ethnic cleansing and genocide. This Special Order brings forth an opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians that lost their lives as a result of this tragic event.

As we arrive at this anniversary once again, the United States should now more than ever promote healing with Turkey and the Armenian community in this nation and abroad. By acknowledging the great tragedy of the Armenian Genocide, we would be doing something

today that is right for the wrong endured by Armenians 86 years ago. Although we are conscience of the current crisis in the Middle East and value our relationship with Turkey, it does not diminish the need to recognize what Armenians experienced during the early 20th Century. There are many people across the world who will agree that this is a highly sensitive and serious issue to discuss. But in order for us to correct the errors of the past we must never forget they took place by officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide and standing up against such atrocities.

On this April 24th, 2001, we remember and mourn the loss of all the Armenians killed from 1915 to 1923. But we also look forward to the day when we will see peace and stability realized by not tolerating acts of severe cruelty and injustice. Unfortunately, genocide is not yet a vestige of the past. In more recent years we have witnessed ethnic killings in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Kosovo. We must continue on with a commitment to prevent such assaults on humanity from occurring again. There are many Armenians living in California today who form a strong and vibrant part of the State's community. The strength they have displayed in overcoming the suffering is an example to us all.

Surrounded by countries still hostile to them, to this day the Armenian struggle continues. Our nation must work to prevent further aggression and assure Armenians throughout the world that they can live free of threats to their existence and property. Now with an independent Armenian state, the United States has an opportunity to contribute to a true memorial of the past by strengthening Armenia's emerging democracy.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember and honor the dead, we also honor the living. Out of the ashes of their history, Armenians all over the world have clung to their identity and have prospered in new communities. For my part, I will vigorously fight to help improve the lives of Armenians in the United States and abroad.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS STARZL

#### HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2001*

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of the truly great Americans of the 20th century, Dr. Thomas Starzl, the renowned "Father of Transplantation."

Dr. Starzl turned 75-years old on March 11th, and his former students, colleagues, patients and others are gathering in Pittsburgh in late April for the dedication of a portrait to hang alongside other University of Pittsburgh medical research luminaries such as Dr. Jonas Salk, who discovered the polio vaccine. Dr. Starzl's pioneering work on organ transplantation is no less important to our society.

One considered to be mere science fiction, the reality of organ transplantation is today often taken for granted. For years throughout his early career, Dr. Starzl tirelessly experimented with transplantation in the face of adversity and the skepticism of his colleagues and academics. But he succeeded, and because of his work thousands of lives are saved each year by organ transplant surgery.

It was 20-years ago this year that Dr. Starzl performed the first liver transplant in Pittsburgh. Since that time, more than 11,300 transplants have been performed in what is now the UPMC Health System, making Pittsburgh the busiest transplant center in the world. Even though he retired from surgery in 1991, his work and dedication to the field of transplantation continues and is unmatched.

Now as we proceed into a new century, his work continues. Just because he's now emeritus does not mean he will be idle. He still contributes on a daily basis (just a few years ago he was named the most cited in clinical medicine) and he will provide leadership and vision to the program that bears his name.

Few in their lifetimes have pioneered and developed a field of medicine and seen it flourish, as has Dr. Starzl. And expect more from him—there are breakthroughs around the corner.

#### COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, every year on April 24 we commemorate the Armenian genocide. Between 1915 and 1923, in what is called the first genocide of this century, more than one million Armenians perished and 500,000 survivors were exiled from their homes in Ottoman Turkey. We mark this unspeakable tragedy each year on that date so that we can examine what occurred and honor the memory of the victims. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the massacre of the Armenians was not the last genocide of the 20th Century. In designing his "final solution to the Jewish problem" Adolf Hitler reflected, "Who today remembers the Armenians?" Decades later, the cries of these victims echoed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.

We must remember, Mr. Speaker, but we must also learn from this event and ultimately act on that knowledge to prevent such indescribable horror from ever occurring again. There are those who deny that there was an Armenian genocide. Mr. Speaker, Yehuda Bauer, historian of Yad Vashem, has said that "to deny a genocide . . . is a denial of truth." We must speak the truth, and that is what we do here in this House today.

As we honor the memory of those who perished, we marvel at the strength of the survivors and the generations which have followed. In the diaspora, the Armenian people have prospered and flourished throughout the world. The creation of the independent state of Armenia in 1991 not only provided the Armenian people with a homeland, but is a beacon of hope for the future. It is our hope, Mr. Speaker, that Armenia will thrive and prosper and continue to fortify its democracy.

It is also our hope, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Armenia and Azerbaijan will redouble their efforts to find a solution to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabagh. I commend our government for bringing the parties together in Florida recently for renewed negotiations, and I hope that this intensified effort will result in an agreement that will ensure lasting peace for all the people of the region.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD CHRISTMAS

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2001*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Richard Christmas of Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Christmas has been writing letters for over forty years to government officials in an attempt to set aside a day dedicated to space exploration. Over the years his letter writing campaign has payed great dividends. Ten Michigan cities, sixteen cities in other states, and a few states have dedicated a day, and sometimes a week for space exploration.

Mr. Christmas has always had an interest in space ever since he was a young boy. However, due to a severe accident he was forced to put his space ambitions on hold. After his recovery he started to write letters to government officials. At first there were few replies but as the United States Space Program gained momentum so did his letter-writing campaign. He has received several letters from mayors and governors commending him on his continuous effort and dedication to space exploration.

Today, Mr. Christmas wants more cities to become involved with making space exploration a national holiday. With the National Air and Space Museum's 25th anniversary around the corner, this would be a perfect time to promote Space Day across the country and I encourage my colleagues to support the efforts of my civic-minded constituent, Mr. Richard Christmas.

#### HONORING PAUL POLO FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2001*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Connecticut business leader and my dear friend, Paul Polo, who has been honored by the Italian American Historical Society of Greater New Haven with their 12th Annual Distinguished Service Award.

Each year, the Italian American Historical Society of Greater New Haven honors members of Connecticut's Italian American community for their service and dedication. The Distinguished Service Award is a reflection of their commitment to the Society and to its mission—preserving the culture and heritage of Italian-Americans. Throughout his life, Paul has demonstrated a unique commitment to public service in both his professional and philanthropic efforts.

Paul's contributions to the Italian-American community are innumerable. For over four decades, Paul has been a member of the Order Sons of Italy in America, serving as president of the nation's largest and oldest Italian American organization for two years. Under his leadership, the organization raised millions of dollars that was contributed to education, medical research, and social awareness issues. Paul now serves as the president